

Attorney Docket No. RANPP0170USA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re **PATENT** application of:

Applicant: Harding et al.

For: CUSHIONING CONVERSION MACHINE AND
METHOD WITH STOCK USAGE MONITORING
(as amended)

Examiner: Vo

Art Unit: 3721

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination, entry of the following amendments is requested.

Amendments

Please amend the application as below indicated.

In the Title:

Please change the title to:

**CUSHIONING CONVERSION MACHINE AND METHOD
WITH STOCK USAGE MONITORING**

In the Specification:

Page 1, line 4, after "This application", please insert --is a continuation of co-owned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/475,627, which--.

In the Abstract:

Please rewrite the abstract as follows (a separate sheet containing the new abstract is attached hereto):

--A method of determining a total amount of stock material passing through a cushioning conversion machine over a period of time during which a plurality of three-dimensional cushioning products are made. The method includes the acts of providing a sheet stock material; converting the sheet stock material into a plurality of the three-dimensional cushioning products with the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; monitoring the passage of stock material through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; storing in a computer memory information regarding the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; and retrieving the stored information, the retrieved stored information providing an indication of the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time. The converting step is accomplished by a cushioning conversion machine including a conversion assembly and a stock supply assembly, sheet stock material being supplied from the stock supply assembly to the conversion assembly.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 through 5 and add new claims 6 through 21 as follows:

6. (New) A method of determining a total amount of stock material passing through a cushioning conversion machine over a period of time during which a plurality of three-dimensional cushioning products are made, said method comprising the acts of:

providing a sheet stock material;

converting the sheet stock material into a plurality of the three-dimensional cushioning products with the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time;

monitoring the passage of stock material through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time;

storing in a computer memory information regarding the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; and

retrieving the stored information, the retrieved stored information providing an indication of the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; and

wherein the converting step is accomplished by a cushioning conversion machine including a conversion assembly and a stock supply assembly, sheet stock material being supplied from the stock supply assembly to the conversion assembly.

7. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the converting act is accomplished by a cushioning conversion machine in which a feed assembly is positioned downstream of a forming assembly.

8. (New) A method as set forth in claim 7 wherein said monitoring act includes tracking the strip of dunnage produced by the conversion assembly at a location downstream of the forming assembly.

9. (New) A method as set forth in claim 7 wherein said converting act is accomplished by a conversion machine in which the feed assembly includes a rotating member having an angular movement which directly corresponds to a length dimension of the strip of dunnage and wherein said tracking comprises monitoring the angular movement of the rotating member.

10. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the storing act is accomplished by a non-volatile memory.

11. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the retrieving act comprises transmitting the stored information to a remote terminal.

12. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the retrieving act comprises transmitting the stored information to a personal computer.

13. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein said retrieving act includes automatically downloading the stored information to a remote processor.

14. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein said retrieving act includes using a visual display to view the stored information.

15. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein said providing act includes providing sheet stock material that is biodegradable, recyclable, and reusable.

16. (New) A method as set forth in claim 15 wherein said providing act includes providing sheet stock material that is Kraft paper.

17. (New) A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein said providing act includes providing sheet stock material that comprises multiple plies of Kraft paper.

18. (New) A method as set forth in claim 17 wherein said providing act includes providing sheet stock material that comprises a roll of superimposed plies of Kraft paper.

19. (New) A method as set forth in claim 18 wherein said providing act includes providing a roll that is approximately thirty inches wide.

20. (New) A method of determining a total cumulative length of three-dimensional cushioning products produced by a cushioning conversion machine over a period of time, comprising the steps of:

using the cushioning conversion machine to convert the stock material into a plurality of the three-dimensional cushioning products during the period of time;

monitoring the length of the cushioning products produced by the cushioning conversion machine during the conversion of the stock material into the cushioning products;

generating signals in accordance with the monitored lengths of the cushioning products produced by the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time;

storing the generated signals as total cumulative length information in a computer memory; and

retrieving the total cumulative length information to determine total cumulative length of the cushioning products produced by the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time;

wherein the cushioning conversion machine includes a forming assembly having forming components which contact and form the sheet stock material and a feed assembly which feeds the stock material through the forming assembly; and

wherein the monitoring step includes tracking passage of the stock material at a point downstream of the forming assembly.

21. (New) A method of determining the total length of dunnage products produced by a dunnage conversion machine during a period of time, said method comprising the acts of:

converting stock material into a plurality of three-dimensional dunnage products during the period of time in a dunnage conversion machine;

monitoring the cumulative length of dunnage products produced by the dunnage conversion machine during the conversion of the stock material into each of the cushioning products;

storing in a computer memory information regarding the cumulative length of dunnage products produced by the dunnage conversion machine during the period of time;

retrieving the stored cumulative length information, the retrieved cumulative length information providing an indication of the cumulative length of dunnage products produced by the dunnage conversion machine during the period of time.

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 6-21 are pending the present application. The title and abstract have also been amended to correspond more closely to the invention to which the claims are directed.

The present claims have relation to the claims of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/475,623, now abandoned.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988, our Order No. RANPP0170USA.

Respectfully submitted,
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CUSHIONING CONVERSION MACHINE AND METHOD WITH STOCK USAGE MONITORING

ABSTRACT

A method of determining a total amount of stock material passing through a cushioning conversion machine over a period of time during which a plurality of three-dimensional cushioning products are made. The method includes the acts of providing a sheet stock material; converting the sheet stock material into a plurality of the three-dimensional cushioning products with the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; monitoring the passage of stock material through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; storing in a computer memory information regarding the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; and retrieving the stored information, the retrieved stored information providing an indication of the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time. The converting step is accomplished by a cushioning conversion machine including a conversion assembly and a stock supply assembly, sheet stock material being supplied from the stock supply assembly to the conversion assembly.